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quency of the individual values. Section 21 deals with the diurnal and annual variations of humidity, precipitation and cloudiness, and likewise gives within a very small compass a clear presentation of the types of these elements of climate. The influence of forests upon climate is very briefly summarized, and a compact statement is made as to the possible as well as the impossible ways in which man may regulate meteorological conditions which he finds unfavourable. We quote the following (p. 108): "Wind-breaks; protection against frost; to a limited extent protection against lightning; perhaps also the dissipation of fogs in harbours, are possible; while on the other hand the breaking up of hail and thunderstorms is to be counted among the impossibilities, as is the production of rain and of storms." This sentence at the same time furnishes an excellent example of the concise, direct style in which Dr. Köppen has written his whole book. We commend the little volume (costing but 80 pfennige, bound in linen!) to all who wish a shorter discussion of the principles of climatology than is contained in Hann's standard work, the *Handbook of Climatology*. R. DEC. W.

Die Haussasprache. Grammatik und systematisch geordnetes Wörterbuch: Hausa-deutsch-französisch-englisch. Von A. Seidel. xvi and 292 pp. Julius Groos, Verlag, Heidelberg, 1906. (Price, \$1.)

A very convenient manual representing a distinct and worthy advance in the study of this great Hamitic speech of the western Sudan, a language which is widely used throughout a large region in Africa now coming more and more under settlement. In Mr. Seidel's project for the comprehension of this language this work occupies an intermediate position. It lies in proper position between the more detailed grammar of the Hausa and the great dictionary which he has now in hand. Pending the publication of these larger works, this manual must be considered only as it serves as an assistance to those who seek to acquire the language for immediate communication with the traders and soldiers of West Africa who use it. While in general the various phases of the old Ollendorff method are a trial to the systematic philologist, this should properly be commended for extreme simplicity. It formed the travelling diversion of the reviewer on two railway journeys, with the result that such study as was given to Seidel's work in the course of some twelve hours has resulted in an acquaintance with the tongue sufficient to serve for the opening of communication with the Hausa. On the other hand, it has the annoying defect of the method, in that one must be completely at a loss in case the Hausa should reply to a question in terms other than those set forth in the manual. Experience has taught every explorer that such a contingency is by no means unusual. In comparison with Robinson's work on this speech the advance made by Seidel clearly appears. In addition to the correction of errors made by Robinson, Schön and the few others who have laboured in this field, he has added in his grouped vocabularies a host of new terms. His treatment of the grammar is clear and easily comprehensible. A very valuable contribution is the employment of diacritical signs by which the pronunciation may be readily acquired, a matter that has hitherto been impossible save by ear. The vocabularies are presented in parallel columns of Hausa, German, French and English, a sensible recognition of the diversity of the European spheres of influence within which the language is used. Each of the European languages which appear in the vocabularies has its own grammatical sketch of the Hausa, forty-six pages in each case. In the English section of the grammar the name of the people is spelled after the German method as Hausa, but in the

vocabulary and on the English section of the title-page the preferred form of Hausa is employed. The slip is more than a little unfortunate, for with the pronunciation in all else so carefully indicated, it needs constant care to prevent being led astray by the doubled s into the adoption of a pure sibilant in the name of the people.

W. C.

Le Guatemala économique. Par Charles H. Stephan. Chevalier et Rivière, Paris, 1907.

Well may the author of this book add to its title: "Practical and useful information." It is indeed a useful work, because it is, above all, practical. Besides, it is unpretentious. There is not a superfluous sentence, the style is strictly matter-of-fact, devoid of all decorative interpolations. Statistics do not crowd the text, but they are appropriately distributed and well selected. There is no branch of industry and commerce on which there is not a fair proportion of information imparted. The geography of Guatemala is treated in a concise way, rather by figures than in words, and only such parts of it as immediately concern the subject. Thus, the table of altitudes giving the lowest and highest limits at which culture plants can thrive is very full, whereas the general orography of Guatemala is disposed of in short but characteristic and appropriate statements. The climate receives due attention and in the same lucid and concise manner. We might, perhaps, have wished for more information on the condition of the inhabitants. What Bolivia is, ethnologically, in South America, Guatemala is north of the Equator. As in Bolivia, the Indians constitute about one-half of the people in numbers, the other half are mestizos and whites. In both countries, the aborigines form an absolutely peculiar, hence also economically interesting and important element, to which, in our opinion, the author might have devoted more space. The business man and the immigrant to Guatemala must count upon the Indian as a factor in the transactions of daily life, and hence the Indian's position and character should be made known to him. Topographically Guatemala resembles (on 'a smaller scale) Peru. Like Peru, Guatemala consists of three distinct zones, counting from west to east.

A slightly accidented, low land, densely wooded and with many watercourses; an elevated central plateau surmounted by a range of tall summits; a coast-zone, comparatively narrow and distinct from the western part of the country in that it is moist and covered with exuberant vegetation.

To the means of communication and transit Mr. Stephan naturally devotes much attention. They are quite primitive as yet in Guatemala, but he hopes for better times soon to come. The Pan-American railway is discussed quite extensively, the point of departure of that important enterprise being given by Mr. Stephan as Ayutla, on the northern confines of Guatemala. Of the feasibility of this project there is, according to Mr. Stephan, no doubt, in course of time.

We must also commend to the attention of the readers the extensive, almost exhaustive, treatment of the laws of Guatemala in respect to commerce, industry, and international relations. The remarks on educational conditions are brief and limited to technical instruction. It appears that Guatemala is, notwithstanding the large proportion of aboriginal blood represented in its population, and the long duration of specifically Indian rule in the past century, not so much behind other Spanish-American States; at least in number and variety of institutions. It is not in harmony with the usual spirit of thoroughness pervading the work to read: "After three centuries of Spanish rule this race (the Indians) had